6334 W. 80th St.
Los Angeles, Calif. 90045
September 30, 1968

Mr. Michael McCloskey, Director
Conservation Department
Sierra Club
1050 Mills Tower, 220 Bush
San Francisco, Calif. 94104

Dear Mr. McCloskey:

Enclosed is an account of an incident which occured at Mineral King last summer. Those of us who have cabins there have been harrased by the Forest Service for several years. In many cases, we feel the Forest Service is over-stepping its authority. We have all been notified that we must vacate our cabins by January 1, 1970, and either remove them or seel them to the Forest Service for the use of construction workers for the road and proposed development. We were all under the impression that our leases ran until 1978 or longer. Also, the Mineral King area has been opened for deer and bear hunting again this season. This was done by the Fish and Game Department at the request of the Forest Service, which claims that "an emergency exists" and therefore the hunt is nemessary. No hearing was held regarding this hunt, even though Mineral King is supposedly a Federal Game Refuge. Inspector Davidson of the Department of Fish and Game, 1234 E. Shaw Ave., Fresno, says no hearing is required on such lands. However we know that several years ago, a public hearing put a stop to a proposed hunt there. Inspector Davidson has said that the deer population is way down both there and in adjacant areas. Therefore it is hard to see any other reason for the request for the hunt other than that it is a purposeful effort on the part of the Forest Service to deplete the wildlife there to such an extent that it can claim the area is no longer appropriate for use as a game refuge.

We are members of the Sierra Club, and from the time the prospectus for the development of Mineral King was issued, have worked to preserve the area as it is. Perhaps the preservation of Mineral King as a primitive area will mean the elimination of the cabins there. However, I have strong objections to having to vacate my cabin so it can be used by construction workers. I feel nearly all the cabin owners there would agree with me.

I would appreciate it if you could give me an opinion regarding the legality of the confiscation of the bumper strips and other material by the Forest Service, and also an opinion as to whether or not it would be worth while for the cabin owners to hire an attorney knowledgable in conservation and Forest Service laws. I know several of the cabin owners wish to take this step if it could give them the use of their cabins for a few more years, or perhaps help to slow down and publicize the real facts regarding this proposed development. If you feel the hiring of an attorney would be the proper step, could you suggest a good one?

I realize your time is very limited, but I would appreciate your giving these matters your attention. I feel our time is also very limited and that perhaps the proper step at this time might be crucial in this battle to preserve Mineral King.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Richard Koch

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